

From wang!elf.wang.com!ucsd.edu!packet-radio-relay Mon Apr 22 14:50:40 1991 remote  
from tosspot  
Received: by tosspot (1.64/waf)  
via UUCP; Mon, 22 Apr 91 20:29:15 EST  
for lee  
Received: from somewhere by elf.wang.com  
id aa01378; Mon, 22 Apr 91 14:50:39 GMT  
Received: from ucsd.edu by relay1.UU.NET with SMTP  
(5.61/UUNET-shadow-mx) id AA29086; Mon, 22 Apr 91 09:32:55 -0400  
Received: by ucsd.edu; id AA26695  
sendmail 5.64/UCSD-2.1-sun  
Mon, 22 Apr 91 04:30:12 -0700 for hpbbrd!db0sao!dg4scv  
Received: by ucsd.edu; id AA26691  
sendmail 5.64/UCSD-2.1-sun  
Mon, 22 Apr 91 04:30:09 -0700 for /usr/lib/sendmail -oc -odb -oQ/var/spool/  
lqueue -oi -fpacket-radio-relay packet-radio-list  
Message-Id: <9104221130.AA26691@ucsd.edu>  
Date: Mon, 22 Apr 91 04:30:05 PDT  
From: Packet-Radio Mailing List and Newsgroup </dev/null@ucsd.edu>  
Reply-To: Packet-Radio@ucsd.edu  
Subject: Packet-Radio Digest V91 #98  
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

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Today's Topics:

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Packet-Radio@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Packet-Radio-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Packet-Radio Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/packet-radio".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

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Date: 21 Apr 91 14:26:37 GMT  
From: swrinde!mips!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!pacific.mps.ohio-state.edu!linac!att!  
emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@ucsd.edu  
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

References <XX.180.2118.671729948@XX.QMAIL>,  
<1991Apr16.170506.14041@mnemosyne.cs.du.edu>,  
<f0UW01015bUE00@amdahl.uts.amdahl.com>

Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)  
Subject : Re: Packet buzzwords

In article <f0UW01015bUE00@amdahl.uts.amdahl.com> greg@amdahl.uts.amdahl.com (Greg Bullough) writes:

>In article <1991Apr16.170506.14041@mnemosyne.cs.du.edu> whester@isis.UUCP  
(William R. Hester) writes:

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>>

>>Does anyone know of a good packet handbook that fills in the gap between  
>>beginner and packet technoid level?

>>

>>...and please post your responses to the original questions above to this  
>>group...I'm sure there are others who have wandered into packet radio and  
>>want to learn more...but are not up to the 56KBaud stuff yet! :-).

>

>I have for a few years thought that with packet, amateur radio has  
>truly come of age. Up to now, for almost every mode and method, their  
>used to be an abundance and redundance of documentation at all levels.

>

>For the "new digital modes," I have noticed that it's a little, but  
>not much, better than what one has come to expect in UNIX-biz;  
>somebody grunts "read the man() page."

>

>Greg

Well I think the keyword here is "new". I imagine that when CW was new there were few authoritative manuals for generating the newfangled continuous waves either. And certainly the "spark forever" boys wouldn't want to talk about it.

Packet really is new to the amateur world. Many of the operating techniques and hardware standards of two years ago are now obsolete. Things are changing too fast for an authoritative book to be meaningful. It would be largely obsolete before it saw print.

The best sources of information are local groups and forums like this one. There is as yet no national or international standard way of doing everything with packet. Each local area is somewhat unique in the way it sets up LANS, MANS, WANS, how it handles store and forward traffic, what methods it uses for digital voice, what bands are used for digital video, etc. With Netrom, Rose, Texnet, IP switched networks, and plain old AX25 link level digipeating going on, often at the same time in the same area, packet is still a fun \*experimental\* zoo. By the time authoritative manuals and standards emerge, it will be time to move on to something more interesting.

If you want to know how to setup a functioning distributed switched

56kb MAN, ask me. If you want to know about low speed simplex ROSE links, ask someone else, I don't have a clue. In addition, what I could tell you about 56kb MANs would probably differ dramatically from the answers you would get from the Ottawa crowd who are going in a somewhat different direction. The BBS crowd's view of packet is totally different from those of us working on distributed computing. The HF crowd is going in yet another, more traditional, DXing and traffic handling direction. Packet Cluster folks are in yet another world of DX spotting nets that happen to use packet radio. Others, the spark forever crowd, are stuck in the obsolete 1200 baud digipeater world of keyboard chats. These last are the only ones with a manual.

Rather than grunting "read the manual" most of us are at the "read the source code, there is no manual" stage.

Gary KE4ZV

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End of Packet-Radio Digest

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